



Roger León
Superintendent

Newark Board of Education

Valerie V. Wilson, School Business Administrator
Office of Operations and Finance

Where Passion Meets Progress

TO: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),
Office of Water, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

RE: Waiver to reduce the cost share/match requirement for reasons of affordability
Funding Opportunity Title: Reduction in Lead Exposure Via Drinking Water
Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-OW-OGWDW-19-01

DATE: May 29, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

On the behalf of the Newark Board of Education, we write in request of the waiver to reduce the cost/share match requirements for reasons of affordability as well as meeting and satisfying the requirements. The Newark school district meets the necessary requirements as stated in the State of New Jersey Drinking and Water State Revolving Fund program as stated here <https://www.nj.gov/recovery/infrastructure/dwsrf.html>. We are a publicly owned water system who would use the funds for water treatment and remediation of the distribution lines. This process would be done to achieve/ maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and to protect public health.

Newark is the largest city in New Jersey and the 68th largest in the nation, with a population of 281,864 living in 106,616 housing units in a 24 square mile area. In 2019, Newark density measured 11,458 per square mile, one of the highest densities among American cities. Newark's residents are mostly racial/ethnic minorities, with 50.2% African-American and 36% Hispanic/Latino. In 2016, the City of Newark experienced a lead in water crisis and is currently dealing with the impact of this crisis and long-term solutions. Unfortunately, the lead in the drinking water crisis is not new to the City of Newark and has been a continual issue, posing a health risk to all the residents, including school-aged children. The City's service lines are connected to the District's water infrastructure and directly impacts the children, staff, and all occupants in the District. In a disadvantaged community, such as Newark, lack of resources hinders our efforts and ability to provide long term solutions. However, with more resources and a plan of action, we foresee a promising future, especially for the health of Newark children.

The Newark Board of Education satisfies all requirements that this grant states to receive the waiver and reduction to the cost share/match statute. We believe that the size, scale and duration of this project exceeds that strategic priority of the grant and warrants the support of the government. Waiving the cost share requirement will ensure that the Newark School District is able to adequately and rapidly support the children of this district.

Sincerely,

Valerie V. Wilson
School Business Administrator